

CLAIMS:

1. A palatable, nutritionally complete vegetarian food for pet mammals, including a nutritionally complete, preferably low-moisture, vegetarian kibble which incorporates a non-meat based flavour-enhancing additive, said additive including hydrolyzed vegetable protein and xylose, wherein the ratio of hydrolyzed vegetable protein to xylose is between 15:1 and 40:1 on a dry mass basis.
2. The pet food of claim 1, wherein the flavour-enhancing additive additionally includes one or more materials selected from a group comprising glucose, garlic powder and nature-identical non-meat-based chicken flavouring.
3. The pet food of claim 2, wherein the flavour-enhancing additive includes the following materials in the following approximate mass proportions: hydrolyzed vegetable protein solids at between 1.5% and 4.0%; xylose at between 0.05% and 0.5%; nature-identical non-meat-based chicken flavouring at between 1.0% and 5.0%; glucose at between 5% and 15%; garlic powder at between 0.2% and 1.0%.
4. The pet food of any preceding claim, wherein the flavour-enhancing additive is diluted in water to form a sprayable solution, and is incorporated in said kibble via spraying.
5. The pet food of claim 4, wherein said spray is added to the kibbles at a mass rate that provides an addition rate of the additive solids to the kibble of between about 6kg to about 12kg of additive per 1000kg of kibble on a dry mass basis.
6. The pet food of claim 5, wherein said spray is added to the kibbles at a mass rate that provides an addition rate of the additive solids to the kibble of between about 8kg to about 10kg of additive per 1000kg of kibble on a dry mass basis.

7. The pet food of any preceding claim, wherein the diluted additive is heated to between about 80°C to about 100°C for between about 10 to about 15 minutes prior to being sprayed on to the kibble.
8. A flavour-enhancing additive for nutritionally complete vegetarian pet mammal foods, said additive including hydrolyzed vegetable protein and xylose, wherein the ratio of hydrolyzed vegetable protein to xylose is between 15:1 and 40:1 on a dry mass basis.
9. The additive of claim 8, wherein the additive additionally including one or more materials selected from a group comprising glucose, garlic powder and nature-identical non-meat-based chicken flavouring.
10. The additive of claim 9, wherein the additive includes the following materials in the following approximate mass proportions: hydrolyzed vegetable protein solids at between 1.5% and 4.0%; xylose at between 0.05% and 0.5%; nature-identical non-meat-based chicken flavouring at between 1.0% and 5.0%; glucose at between 5% and 15%; garlic powder at between 0.2% and 1.0%.
11. The additive of any of claims 8, 9 or 10, wherein the flavour-enhancing additive is diluted in water to form a sprayable solution.
12. The additive of claim 11, wherein said solution is heated to between about 80°C to about 100°C for between about 10 to about 15 minutes.
13. A method of enhancing the flavour of nutritionally complete vegetarian pet mammals foods, said method including the steps of:

producing a low moisture, vegetarian pet food kibble; and

adding to the kibble a flavour-enhancing additive according to any of claims 8 to 12.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the additive is added to the kibbles at a mass rate that provides an addition rate of the additive solids to the kibble of between about 6kg to about 12kg of additive per 1000kg of kibble on a dry mass basis.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the additive is added to the kibbles at a mass rate that provides an addition rate of the additive solids to the kibble of between about 8kg to about 10kg of additive per 1000kg of kibble on a dry mass basis.
16. The method of any of claims 13 to 15, wherein the additive is incorporated in said kibble via spraying.